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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,595	08/19/2003	Kaneo Yajima	520.43033X00	2792

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MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD
SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

TUCKER, WESLEY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/642,595		YAJIMA, KANEO	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Wes Tucker		2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,744,461 to Wada et al.

With regard to claim 1, Wada discloses a surveillance camera apparatus comprises an image signal transmission apparatus transmitting an image signal and an image signal reception apparatus receiving an image signal from said image signal transmission apparatus (column 5, lines 42-60 and column 7, lines 24-29),

wherein said image signal transmission apparatus comprises an image pick-up unit for picking-up an object (Fig. 11, element 44);

a position input unit for specifying a predetermined range from an output signal from said image pick-up unit (column 7, lines 1-23 and column 8, lines 8-30); and

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an image signal output unit for outputting position information obtained from said position input unit superimposed on said image signal obtained from said image pick-up unit (column 8, lines 31-41), and

said image signal reception apparatus comprises a position information detector for detecting position information from an image signal to which said position information transmitted from said image signal transmission apparatus is added (column 8, lines 42-61);

a recorder for recording said image signal (Fig. 11, element 46); and

a controller for selecting any one of said image signal and a signal masking a predetermined range of said image signal based on said position information from said position information detector and for recording it into said recorder (column 10, lines 5-9 and 25-34).

As best interpreted from the specification, the claims recite a surveillance camera that has the ability to mask certain portions of the recorded image frames. The patent to Wada discloses this practice explicitly.

With regard to claim 2, Wada discloses a surveillance camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said position information obtained from said position input unit is superimposed on a vertical blanking period of said image signal obtained from said imaging unit (column 10, lines 5-9 and 25-34). Wada discloses coordinates of the masking superimposed on the image.

With regard to claim 3, Wada discloses a surveillance camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image signal reception apparatus further comprises a mode selector, and said controller selects at least any one of a mode recording into said recorder without masking and a mode recording into said recorder with masking based on a selection signal from said mode selector (column 8, lines 8-19). Wada discloses allowing user selection of the masking portion interpreted as choosing the mode between masking and non-masking.

With regard to claim 4, Wada discloses a surveillance camera apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said controller further comprises a security setting unit, and said mode recording into said recorder without masking is set by the control of said security setting unit (column 11, lines 21-24 and 37-41). Wada discloses setting the masking with a password, which is interpreted as a security setting unit.

With regard to claim 5, Wada discloses a surveillance camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image signal reception apparatus further comprises a memory unit for position information for storing position information from said detector for position information (column 2, lines 30-36),

a first selector for selectively outputting any one of said image signal and an image signal masking a predetermined part from said image signal based on said position information (column 2, lines 38-48), and

a second selector for recording an image signal selected by said selector into said recorder to selectively output any one of an output image signal from said recorder and an image signal masking a predetermined part from said output image signal based on said position information (column 2, lines 59-67 and column 3, lines 4-12).

With regard to claim 6, Wada discloses an image signal transmission apparatus comprising: an image pick-up unit for picking-up an object (Fig. 11);

a position input unit for specifying an image picking-up forbiddance range from an output signal from said image pick-up unit (column 2, lines 29-48);

a position information adding unit for superimposing said position information obtained from said position input unit on said image signal obtained from said image pick-up unit (column 2, lines 38-48); and

an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal to which said position information is added (column 2, lines 59-67).

As best interpreted from the specification, the claims recite a surveillance camera that has the ability to mask certain portions of the recorded image frames. The patent to Wada discloses this practice explicitly.

With regard to claim 7, Wada discloses an image signal transmission apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said position information obtained from said position input unit is superimposed on a vertical blanking period of said image signal obtained from

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said image pick-up unit (column 10, lines 5-9 and 25-34). Wada discloses coordinates of the masking superimposed on the image.

With regard to claim 8, Wada discloses an image signal reception apparatus comprising: an image signal input unit for inputting an image signal to which position information in an image picking-up forbiddance range is added (column 2, lines 29-48);

a position information detector for detecting position information from said image signal; a recorder for recording said image signal; and a controller for selecting any one of said image signal (column 2, lines 38-48); and

a signal masking an image picking-up forbiddance range of said image signal based on said position information from said position information detector to record it into said recorder (column 2, lines 59-67).

As best interpreted from the specification, the claims recite a surveillance camera that has the ability to mask certain portions of the recorded image frames. The patent to Wada discloses this practice explicitly.

With regard to claim 9, Wada discloses an image signal reception apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a mode selector, and said controller selects at least any one of a mode recording into said recorder without masking and a mode recording into said recorder with masking based on a selection signal from said mode selector (column 8, lines 8-19). Wada discloses allowing user selection of the masking portion interpreted as choosing the mode between masking and non-masking.

With regard to claim 10, Wada discloses an image signal reception apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said controller further comprises a security setting unit, and said mode recording into said recorder without masking is set by the control of said security setting unit (column 11, lines 21-24 and 37-41). Wada discloses setting the masking with a password, which is interpreted as a security setting unit.

With regard to claim 11, Wada discloses an image signal reception apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a memory unit for position information for storing said position information from said detector for said position information (column 2, lines 30-36);

a first selector for selectively outputting any one of said image signal and an image signal masking a predetermined part from said image signal based on said position information (column 2, lines 38-48); and

a second selector for recording an image signal selected by said selector into said recorder to selectively output any one of an output image signal from said recorder and an image signal masking a predetermined part from said output image signal based on said position information (column 2, lines 59-67 and column 3, lines 4-12).

Contact Information

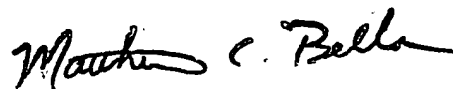
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wes Tucker whose telephone number is 571-272-7427. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Wes Tucker

3-14-07



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600